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# ARMENIA HIGHLIGHTS

**Weekly Digest of the Government of Armenia**

**August 17 -23 2010**

## THEMA



### **RUSSIAN PRESIDENT DMITRY MEDVEDEV'S FIRST STATE VISIT IN ARMENIA**

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev arrived in Armenia on a state visit on August 19 evening. It was the first ever state visit in the history of Armenian-Russian relations. The Russian President started his visit with attending the Armenian Genocide Memorial. Then he was welcomed in his Armenian counterpart's residence. On Friday, August 20, official talks were followed by signing of documents and a joint press conference of Dmitry Medvedev and Serzh Sargsyan. On the same day, the President took part in the opening ceremony of the Hill of Honor in Gyumri. Upon completion of the state visit, Dmitry Medvedev attended the informal summit of leaders of the Collective Security Treaty Organization. On August 19 evening, Armenian and Russian Presidents as well as their wives walked in the Republic Square, where the everyday program of Singing Fountains was replaced by Russian composers' works. Serzh Sargsyan and Dmitry Medvedev also had a talk with Yerevan residents passing by and then visited a cafe in the center of the city. During a

reception in the Armenian President's residence, Russian leader Dmitry Medvedev thanked his Armenian counterpart Serzh Sargsyan for warm welcome. "Our relations date back centuries, indeed. And what's important, our nations traditionally supported each other at the most dramatic historical junctures. There are many examples to prove it," President Medvedev noted. He also said that Armenia was among the first countries to reach a helping hand to Russia during the recent forest fires, bringing great deal of moral and material support. "Russian-Armenian relations, bilateral as well as in the framework of the CSTO and CIS, are really very close. They can be called exemplary in every respect. Our dialogue is mutually beneficial, both at the personal and regional levels, which is important and commendable," Medvedev said. "I would like to personally thank the leadership of Armenia, all our counterparts for strengthening our relations, for their sincere will to develop our partnership and expand ties. This state visit is a symbol of that very partnership."

*August 19-20, 2010 [www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)*

### **"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"**

"THE MODERN WORLD IS FIRST OF ALL BASED ON THE INTELLECTUAL COMPETITION, AND NOT A COMPETITION OF ARMS AND ARMAMENTS. WE WILL HAVE A BRIGHT FUTURE IF THE HERO OF TODAY IS THE EDUCATED AND INTELLECTUAL YOUTH

TIGRAN SARGSYAN  
PRIME MINISTER OF  
ARMENIA

### **Upcoming Events**

**September 1:** Armenia Marks the day of science

**September 16-17:** Yerevan to host Fruitfull Armenia winemaking forum

**September 21:** Armenia celebrates the Independence day

### **USEFUL LINKS**

- [www.president.am](http://www.president.am)
- [www.gov.am](http://www.gov.am)
- [www.parliament.am](http://www.parliament.am)
- [www.mfa.am](http://www.mfa.am)
- [www.armenpress.am](http://www.armenpress.am)
- [www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)
- [www.matenadaran.am](http://www.matenadaran.am)

**TIGRAN SARGSYAN SAYS ARMENIA TO HAVE BRIGHT FUTURE IF TODAY'S HERO IS THE EDUCATED AND INTELLECTUAL YOUNG**



**R**A Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan par took on August 23 in the opening ceremony of 'Baze 2010' youth gathering, organized in Tsakhkadzor by the Armenian Youth Foundation. More than 280 young people from Armenia, Artsakh and Javakhk were invited to the youth gathering. Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan greeted the participants of the youth gathering and mentioned that the year was full of pan-Armenian youth events. The Governmental press service told Ar-

menpress that the Prime Minister assured the participants that the RA Government will do its best to promote the youth movement in Armenia. According to the Prime Minister, the youth gatherings of 'Baze' may become the best tool for uniting the youth, designing joint projects and investing a new culture. Tigran Sargsyan congratulated the participants on the 20th anniversary of the RA Declaration of Independence. "The day is significant, as the Armenian nation celebrates the day of adoption of the Independence Declaration. Most of you were born in that period, when we were forming the bases of the Republic of Armenia. The adoption of the Declaration of Independence had a historical significance for our nation, as the principles, involved in the Declaration, became bases for the creation of the Republic of Armenia via laws and normative acts" the Prime Minister said.

*August 23, 2010 [www.armenpress.am](http://www.armenpress.am)*

**SERGEI LAVROV: RUSSIA WILL NEVER SUPPLY ARMS IF DESTABILIZATION THREAT EMERGES**

**R**ussia will never supply arms if destabilization threat emerges, Russian Foreign Minister said.

"Purchase of S-300 by a country causes panic about possible destabilization. As a matter of fact, S-300 is a defense system which is deployed in compliance with international norms," Sergei Lavrov said in an interview with Public Armenian Television, when commenting on reports on possible sale of S-300 to Azerbaijan.

"S-300 is meant to defend the territory from missile attacks. I am confident that no country in the region we are speaking about is planning to unleash



war. I was personally present at the meeting between Presidents of Russia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, who signed documents excluding use of force for resolution of the Karabakh conflict," he said.

*August 19, 2010 [www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)*

**ROMAN BEREZOVSKY INVITED TO JOIN ARMENIA FOR UEFA EURO 2012 CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIERS**



**F**C Khimki goalkeeper Roman Berezovsky was invited to join Armenia for UEFA EURO 2012 Championship qualifiers on September 3, 2010 (v Ireland in Yerevan) and on September

7 (v Macedonia on Skopje). Sharing his impressions of Armenia in an interview published on the club's official website, Berezovsky said, "I know Armenian and understand national mentality and traditions. Armenians are hospitable people, and thanks to this hospitality, a new player can more easily adapt in an Armenian club than in Russian."

*August 17, 2010 [www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)*

**ISSUES ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE "CANDLE" PROJECT DISCUSSED**

**P**Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan, who is also the head of the Council coordinating the implementation of the "Candle" project, chaired today the session of the council to discuss a number of agenda issues.

Governmental press office told Armenpress that with the first issue of the agenda the members were informed about the opportunities and results of international cooperation for the implementation of the "Candle" project. The session also discussed the suggestions presented by the international scientific organizations and experts for financing the implementation of the project.

*August 18, 2010 [www.armenpress.am](http://www.armenpress.am)*

**ISRAEL, RUSSIA, UKRAINE AND ARMENIA TO FORM AIRLINE ALLIANCE**

**E**l Al (Israel), UTair (Russia), Aerosvit Airlines (Ukraine) and Armavia (Armenia) have signed a declaration on formation of an airline alliance to be named Western-Eastern (WE).

The alliance was initiated by El Al, whose joining the existing alliances has always been prevented by different Arab airlines. Negotiations on expansion are under way with CIS and Western European countries.

*August 17, 2010, [www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)*

**COMPUTER GAMES CHAMPIONSHIP LAUNCHED IN YEREVAN**

**A**rmenian computer games championship, hosting 80 gamers aged 14-16, was launched in Yerevan on August 21. As head of Armenia's professional cybersport league, Edgar Sahakyan, told a PanARMENIAN.Net reporter, parents' written permission was required to register underage participants. "Cybersport helps IT progress, gaining importance in view of current technology requirements. Besides, computer game culture, as one of the modern entertainment types should also be developed," Sahakyan concluded. FIFA 10 and TrackMania Nations Forever were chosen as main competition games for the championship.

*August 21, 2010*

*full story [www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)*



### MOSCOW TO HOST CSTO SUMMIT IN DECEMBER



At first sitting of informal CSTO summit in Yerevan, the participants exchanged views on a range of issues including situation in Kyrgyzstan and possibilities of aiding the republic. Collaboration within organization frameworks was discussed,

with parties agreeing on the necessity to take them to a new level, Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan stated at the briefing. Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, in turn, stated that the exchange of views was held in accordance with the scenario planned. "CSTO is a real force capable of influencing both regional and CSTO-space developments. We've outlined future plans to be given detailed discussion at the Moscow's CSTO summit in December. As you're aware, Belarus will be the next CSTO chairing country. Today, President Alexander Lukashenko confirmed his readiness to head the organization during the next period," Dmitry Medvedev emphasized.

August 20, 2010 [www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)

### SERZH SARGSYAN: ARMENIA EXPECTS TURKEY TO FULFILL ITS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS

There are no states without contradictions, controversies or unresolved conflicts, RA President Serzh Sargsyan stated, commenting on Armenia-Turkey relations. "A search for ways to achieve mutual understanding should be a civilized answer to existing challenges. It was with this idea in mind that we initiated rapprochement process with Turkey," Armenian President stated citing Turkey's lack of political will as the reason behind failed attempts at normalization of relations with Armenia. "Armenia has to wait for Turkey to fulfill its international obligations," said the Armenian leader, who participated at Mound of Honor opening ceremony jointly with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev.

August 20, 2010 [www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)

### ARMENIAN GOVERNMENT APPROVES CLEAN MOTHERLAND PROGRAM

At RA governmental sitting, headed by Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan, Clean Motherland national program was approved. The program aims at improving legislative field in order to more effectively employ the means for environmental cleansing and protection, increasing awareness of environmental issues.

August 19, 2010  
full story [www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)

### ARMENIAN-RUSSIAN COOPERATION SECURES STABILITY IN SOUTH CAUCASUS



A reception in honor of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and his spouse was organized in the residence of Armenian President on August 19 evening. "Mr. Medvedev's visit to Armenia offers an opportunity to discuss the Armenian-Russian cooperation. We are proud of our friendly relations and multilateral collaboration, which is a major factor for ensuring security and stability in the Caucasus," Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan said. "I am confident that we will implement all bilateral projects," he added.

August 20, 2010 [www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)

### MULTINATIONAL YOUTH CAMP LAUNCHED IN LUSAKERT

Youth of national minority communities of Armenia together with their ethnic Armenian peers will learn more about tolerance and human rights at a five-day summer camp which was launched today in Lusakert by the UN DPI Yerevan Office and its partners.

August 19, 2010  
full story [www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)

### ARMENIA, RUSSIA MAP OUT NEW COOPERATION PLANS



A joint statement was adopted upon completion of the Russian President Dmitry Medvedev's visit to Armenia.

"The current condition and prospects of Armenian-Russian strategic partnership were discussed during the talks. The parties exchanged views on the most urgent regional and international issues. They also expressed willingness to further constructive bilateral collaboration in the framework of CSTO and CIS as well as within international organizations, including the UN and OSCE," the statement says.

It goes on saying, "Russian President Dmitry Medvedev's initiative for development and conclusion of European security pact met with approval from the President of Armenia, Serzh Sargsyan... Besides, the Republic of Armenia and the Russian Federation confirmed commitment to soonest resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict through peaceful and acceptable for both sides means. They also stressed the importance of non-use of force, territorial integrity and the right of nations to self-determination as the basic principles which are mentioned in the latest statement issued by the OSCE Minsk Group."

"Special attention was paid to the activity of intergovernmental committee on economic cooperation... Another important component of Armenian-Russian allied relations is political and military cooperation," the statement reads. "The Presidents of Armenia and Russia are confident that the current stage of relations offers wide opportunities for further development and strengthening of ties for the glory of the nations as well as for peace and stability in the Caucasus and in the entire world."

August 21, 2010 [www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)

## RUSSIA TO PROLONG MILITARY PRESENCE IN ARMENIA

Armenia said on Wednesday it had agreed to extend the lease on a Russian military base in the South Caucasus country until 2044, strengthening Moscow's military presence in the strategic region. The deal will be signed during a visit to Yerevan by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev on Thursday and Friday. Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian confirmed the lease extension in an interview with Rossiya-24 television.

It will prolong for decades Russia's military presence in Armenia, its chief strategic and economic ally in a region criss-crossed by pipelines carrying Central Asian and Caspian oil and gas to Europe. The Russian military also has troops in two breakaway regions of neighbouring Georgia, where it is building up bases in the wake of a five-day war over rebel South Ossetia in 2008. Russia and Armenia signed a deal in 1995 allowing the Russian base in the town of Gyumri on Armenia's closed western border with Turkey to operate for 25 years. Nalbandian said the changes would extend that deal to 49 years from 1995. He said the deal would spell out that the Russian base would help secure the landlocked country of 3.2 million people, where the spectre of renewed conflict with oil-producing Azerbaijan over rebel Nagorno-Karabakh is never far away. "And in realising those goals, the Russian side will assist in providing Armenia with weapons and modern military equipment," Nalbandian said. Some in the Armenian opposition have complained the deal undermines the country's independence. Russia has several thousand soldiers in Gyumri, who help patrol Armenia's western border with NATO-member Turkey. Ankara closed the frontier in 1993 in solidarity with close Muslim ally Azerbaijan during the war over Nagorno-Karabakh. The mountain region threw off Azeri rule in the early 1990s with Armenian backing.

*August 18, 2010*

*full story [www.af.reuters.com](http://www.af.reuters.com)*

## MEDVEDEV, SARGSYAN TO DISCUSS RUSSIA'S INVESTMENT IN ARMENIA



Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and his Armenian counterpart Serzh Sargsyan will discuss the implementation of Russia's investment projects in Armenia, including nuclear cooperation between the countries, during Medvedev's visit to Yerevan. The Russian president arrived in Armenia on a state visit on Thursday. "Nuclear energy is one of the most promising spheres [of cooperation]. An intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in the construction of a new generation nuclear power unit in Armenia is being prepared for signing during the visit," the Kremlin said in a statement issued ahead of Medvedev's visit.

Armenia plans to begin building the new nuclear power unit, with a capacity of 1000WT, in 2011. The cost of the project could reach \$5 billion. The unit is expected to be operational by 2017, when the unit currently in service will be shut down. A joint Russian-Armenian enterprise has been created to conduct research to find out if Armenia has any uranium reserves. According to expert estimates, the country could possess between 30,000 and 60,000 metric tons of recoverable uranium. Russia has invested a total of \$2.4 billion in Armenia's economy since 1991, which accounts for about 60 percent of all foreign investment in the country. Energy, banking, telecommunication, metallurgy and construction are the main spheres of Russia's investment.

*August 20, 2010 [www.en.rian.ru](http://www.en.rian.ru)*

## RUSSIA SIGNS DEAL TO GUARANTEE ARMENIA'S SECURITY

Russia and Armenia have signed a deal which will keep Russian troops in the former Soviet republic for years to come.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and his Armenian counterpart Serzh Sargsyan sealed the agreement in the Armenian capital Yerevan.

Moscow is to extend its lease on a military base in Armenia from 2020 to 2044 while reinforcing the garrison of 3,000 Russian troops stationed there to guarantee Armenia's security.

The pact is likely to set alarm bells ringing in neighbouring Azerbaijan which is locked in a conflict with Yerevan over the breakaway Nagorno Karabakh region.

Georgia – which fought a brief war with Russia two years ago – is equally unlikely to welcome the arrangement which bolsters Moscow's military clout in the South Caucasus.

*August 21, 2010 [www.euronews.net](http://www.euronews.net)*

## ARMENIA TO EXTEND GYUMRI BASE LEASE FOR 49 YEARS



Russia and Armenia are planning to sign a protocol to extend the lease of the Russian military base at Gyumri for 49 years.

The document may be signed during President Dmitry Medvedev's visit to Yerevan, Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian has told reporters. The 1995 25-year lease agreement will be prolonged for another 49 years, he said.

Russia will provide assistance in modernizing the Armenian Armed Forces, Edward Nalbandian said.

*August 18, 2010 [www.ruvr.ru](http://www.ruvr.ru)*

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